

RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A PLACE TO GROW

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

HERE'S THE DIRT

Rooting for You

Nancy Clark, RVGC President

Do you enjoy starting cuttings, but then aren't sure what to do with all of the new plants? Or is it time to divide some of your bulbs or plants, and would like to share your extras? Or have you amassed a collection of just-too-good-to-get-rid-of garden art, books, seeds, tools, or pots and would like to trim it down?

Well... I have this idea. What if we held a Gardening Swap Meet? Those interested could get together with their gardening "treasures" on a Saturday or Sunday, and trade, sell, or give them away. Think of the fun we would have sharing our bounty, and, sharing gardening tips that we've learned along the way.

This idea is new, and I'd like to get some members together to help me plan it. Some topics we could discuss are:

- Should we limit it to Club Members only?
- Where should we have it? (RMA bldg., someone's driveway or backyard, elsewhere?); and
- When to have it (i.e., far enough in the future to have time to start new plants?).

This event will be separate from the SRVD Fall or Spring Sales, and my goal is for it NOT to be a fundraiser. I'd like it to be instead an opportunity for our members to share their stuff, have fun, talk gardening, and maybe enjoy a cookie or two. (What's a garden club event without a snack?)

I'm forming a committee and would really appreciate your participation. This kind of event would be a "first" for our club, so I'm definitely open to your ideas. If you haven't been on a committee before, this would be a great one in which to get your feet wet because it should be relatively simple, making the planning more fun than work. (I'm thinking this committee could meet at my house and talk over lunch.) The one thing that's fun about being on a committee is accomplishing something bigger than yourself. It's awesome! If you're interested in helping, please contact me at:

nancyclark475@sbcglobal.net, or, call or text at 916-769-0553.)



Mistletoe
Our Favorite Parasite

Inside this issue

Rooting for You.....	1
Programs & Workshops...	2
Upcoming Tours	3
Holiday Party!!!!.....	4 & 5
The Perfect Christmas Gift.....	6
What's up at Big Oak?.....	7
Discount Nursery list.....	8
Photo Adventure 2018.....	9
Did you know?.....	10



2017-2018 Programs and Workshops (to date)

It's not polite to keep an adventure waiting....

Date	Type	Provider	Location	Details	Cost/Transp.
Dec. 3, 2017	Holiday Party	RVGC	RMA Bldg.	The RVGC annual Holiday Party is Sunday, Dec. 3rd at the RMA Bldg. from 3pm - 6pm (See flyer below.)	
Dec 5, 2017	Field Trip	Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore		To attend a festive Holiday Decorating event that includes a demonstration of holiday decorating with live greens, and how to make Christmas arrangements. Lunch will be provided, along with the instructional holiday décor presentation, tour of the nursery grounds, and shopping – which includes gift wrap.	Carpool from RM. (It's about a 1.5 hour drive). \$20/person. Deadline: November 30 - Checks payable to Nancy Compton (who has prepaid for 10 people)
Dec. 8, 2017	Field Trip	Historic Folsom Holiday Tour	Folsom	Tour beautifully decorated homes, museums, and churches, all decked out for the holidays. Shop in gift boutique! This is a fund raiser for the Murer House and the Folsom Historical Society. Lunch in a local restaurant.	Carpool. \$18 each, for a group of 8 or more.
Jan. 22, 2018	Workshop	Two teachers from the Ikebana Club	RMA Bldg.	Ikebana Flower Arranging Class	\$35 per person for two hours of instruction Seating limited to ten students. To reserve a space, please call, text, or email Ellison Cowles @ 916-549-0379 or ecowles2@gmail.com
Jan. 23, 2018	Program	Chris Strutz	RMA Bldg.	All About Fertilizers	
Feb. 27, 2018	Program	Chuck Cottam	RMA Bldg.	Building a Koi Pond in Your Garden	
Mar 27, 2018	Program	Chef Johnny	RMA Bldg.	TBA	
Apr 24, 2018	Program	Betty Bloom	RMA Bldg.	All About Orchids	
May 22, 2018	Program	Chris Huey	RMA Bldg.	Penny Pines and the Eldorado Forest	

Workshop: Japanese Flower Arranging, 1/22/18

Ellison Cowles, Workshop Committee Chair

We were wowed by the Ikebana presentation during our October meeting. Now you too can learn about this enchanting art form. Join us Monday, January 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon for a beginning Ikebana class. All materials will be furnished.

Two teachers from the Sacramento Ikebana Club will demonstrate and guide each student in creating her/his own exquisite Japanese flower arrangement. Seating is limited to 10 students. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity right here in our own backyard.

\$35.00.



Two December Tours to Celebrate the Holidays

Nancy Compton, Tour Chair

To make a lively season even livelier, the River Valley Garden Club is offering two tours in December featuring holiday decorating, fun, and camaraderie.

The first tour is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, when we will be carpooling to Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore for a special event. This lovely nursery, situated within a grove of centuries-old oaks, is offering a festive Holiday Decorating event that includes lunch, a speaker, and a holiday decorating demonstration. The nursery has a beautiful heated room in which to demonstrate holiday decorating using live greens. Lunch will be provided.

Our demonstration begins at 1 p.m. with lunch, but we will want to arrive earlier so that we can browse their spectacular selection of trees, flowers, perennials, shrubs, garden accessories, gifts, indoor plants, and orchids. The cost of this event is \$20, but each participant will receive a \$20 coupon to use for shopping.

Meet at the RMA building at 10:00 a.m. for the two hour drive to Livermore; this will give us time to browse and shop for that special Christmas gift, even if that gift is for ourselves. To reserve your spot, please contact Nancy Compton at ncompton43@att.net or (916) 600-1992; also indicate whether or not you are willing to drive.

The second tour is closer to home – a Historic Folsom Holiday Home Tour which is a fundraiser for the Murer House and the Folsom Historical Society, on Friday, December 8. You may remember the Murer House that we visited a couple of years ago and in which we learned to make mushroom risotto from a genuine Italian chef.

Starting at Murer House where we will pick up our tickets, the tour will proceed to old Folsom, where we will be delighted by holiday decorations in historic homes, a church, and even a museum. The Murer House will also feature a hand-crafted holiday boutique for your shopping pleasure. Tickets are \$18. Meet at the RMA building at 9 a.m. so we can carpool to Folsom. Again, please contact Nancy Compton at ncompton43@att.net or (916) 600-1992. This promises to be a fun and lively tour – just perfect for getting into the holiday mood.

Thank you for your interest in these club tours, and I look forward to seeing you.



Holiday Party Preparation

Carol Prinzo, Holiday Party Chair

On Monday, November 13th, a merry band of elves convened at the RMA building to paint and decorate the jars which will hold the centerpieces for our holiday party on December 3rd.

We set up an assembly line and went to work. In about an hour we had completed our project and everyone was delighted with the results. What a great team we are! (Santa was so proud.)

The holiday party elves are Carol Prinzo (Chair), Sharon Barton, Inge King, Rosann Stevenson, Irene Slavens, Sandy Anderson, Donna Parker, Toni Mayer, and Vivian Baier.

A festive time was had by all!



Workshop Followup: Vacation Plant Waterer

Ellison Cowles, Workshop Committee Chair

Cutting a plastic bottle in half and threading a strip of cloth through the bottle neck can save your favorite potted plant! That's what participants did November 14th at the home of Ellison Cowles.

It's simple.

1. Cut a plastic bottle in half and fill the bottom half of the bottle with just enough water so as to not have it overflow once the top half is inserted.
2. Set the potted plant into the inverted top half of the bottle. Tuck a cloth strip into the pot soil and thread it down through the inverted neck of the bottle into the water held in the bottom half. Place the top half of the bottle and pot into the bottom half, and vacation plant watering takes care of itself!



Toni Mayer and Ellison display their creations.



THE RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
INVITES YOU AND YOUR GUEST TO

A VERY BERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 3rd

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
RMA Building

COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE HOT CIDER, COFFEE AND DESSERT.

MEMBERS TO BRING A HEARTY APPETIZER OR MAIN-DISH SALAD AND
YOUR OWN ADULT BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.

GIFT EXCHANGE: HOLIDAY WRAPPED, GARDEN-RELATED GIFT NOT
TO EXCEED \$10.00.

RSVP TO: CAROL PRINZO at
rcprinzo1962@gmail.com or 354-9688. **DEADLINE: 11/28**



Join Us!

*'Tis the season of mistletoe and holly.
You can't miss this reason to be jolly.
Come and join your friends, gardenistas who tend,
to have parties that are NOT melancholy!*





Looking for the Perfect Christmas Gift?

Trying to find the perfect gift is hard, isn't it? Do you want something that you can depend on, that will last *waay* past the warranty date, something that could make a difference in the world, and yet be unique? Well, consider this. How about a grove of trees?

Yes. Grove - of - trees.

What could be more lasting and make a difference, yet be unique? Who wouldn't be honored to have a blighted forest returned to health in their name? How can you honor someone in such a fabulous manner?

Through the River Valley Garden Club Penny Pines program.

California's National Forests cover some twenty million acres, or about one-fifth of the state. These areas of great beauty and majestic stature are plagued by devastating problems, such as natural and man-caused fires, pests, and disease. In time, some land may recover naturally. However, Penny Pines provides a leg up. Penny Pines is a conservation program in which everyone can participate.

History:

- At the start of the program in 1941, seedlings could be produced for about one cent each. Approximately 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre.
- Back then, for \$68.00, seedlings for ten acres could be purchased. Site preparation and planting costs were met through regular Forest Service appropriations. Seedlings were grown from local seeds and acorns, and replanted near the areas where the seeds were collected to improve their chance of survival.
- The Penny Pines program was so successful that money contributed to purchase seedlings soon far exceeded appropriated funds available for site preparation and for the actual planting job.
- In 1964, the original cooperative agreement was rewritten to provide that funds contributed under the Penny Pines program be used for reforestation, rather than solely for purchasing seedlings.
- Today \$68.00 provides support for approximately one acre (one "plantation") which may include up to 350 trees.

This is why we send around a basket collecting donations for "Penny Pines" during our monthly meetings. When we collect \$68.00 we then donate to the El Dorado National Forest. The funds are deposited into a Penny Pines Reforestation account, drawn upon as improvement projects are determined by resource managers. Be assured that your donation to the Penny Pines Project brings new life to our national forests!

But, here we are. 'Tis the season of giving. What better gift than to buy an entire "plantation" in someone's name? For Christmas, each donor will receive an interim certificate (for framing/gifting purposes) to be followed up with the official USDA acknowledgement certificate. Donations may be made *"in honor of"* or *"in memory of"* individuals.

To obtain one (or more) of these unique gifts, please write the name of the person, and your own name on a piece of paper, include it with your donation in an envelope and give it to Kathy Nuttall (Penny Pines Chairperson) or Ruth Lecheler- Moore (Treasurer).

A Closer Look at Big Oak Nursery

Jamie Fox, Newsletterer

On a recent Sunday, I had some spare time and a bit of wanderlust so I pointed my Blazer toward [Big Oak Nursery](#) situated at 10071 Grant Line Road, in Elk Grove. As a supporter of our Discount Nursery Program, Big Oak Nursery is open Monday to Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Established in 1993, Big Oak Nursery is part of a sprawling four-hundred acre complex owned by the Daehling family. Not only do they have acres of plants, Big Oak also has free range chickens which lay organic brown eggs, and bees that produce local organic honey. Both items are harvested, packaged, and available for purchase on site. If that isn't enough, there is a vineyard and thoroughbred horses on the complex. Yes, thoroughbreds.

On the far side of Big Oak Nursery lies the Daehling Ranch - a full service breeding and training farm which specializes in the breeding, foaling, and raising of thoroughbred horses. And in case you want to relocate the horse you have tethered in your back yard, Daehling Ranch also has boarding facilities.

This is a generous nursery with friendly staff, and very reasonable plant pricing. They offer [weekly plant specials](#) of up to 25% off. In my wanderings I discovered a clearance table - buy one, get two free - so I am now nine coleus and three geraniums richer, all for the bargain price of \$8.00.

Yes, I know we are approaching winter so what am I doing buying some bedraggled Coleus? Propagating, folks, propagating. Big Oak Nursery does their *own* propagation which is why the plants they sell are regional hardy. This gives credence to their slogan of "Family Owned and Locally Grown".

Centrally located, Big Oak Nursery is just a twenty-five minute cruise down Grant Line Rd. from Rancho Murieta. This is a perfect time to pick up a green and growing holiday gift. You know that *nothing* says "Merry" like something with roots.

Christmas Thoroughbred



RVGC Discount Nurseries 2017 - 2018



	Address	Discount		Hours
Amador Flower Farm	22001 Shenandoah School Road Plymouth (Amador County) 209.245.6660 https://www.amadorflowerfarm.com/	15% Show current RVGC membership card	Amador Flower Farm was the first business to offer us a discount and our first speaker was from Amador Flower Farm. Over 800 daylily varieties, demonstration gardens with grasses and perennials, picnic tables, gift shop, most areas wheelchair accessible, gorgeous color catalog; order by FAX, email, snail mail, and select varieties online.	Open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, and from December 1 to March 1 the Farm will be closed Monday through Wednesday.
Big Oak Nursery	10071 Grant Line Road Elk Grove 916.686.1180 http://bigoaknursery.com/	10% Show current RVGC membership card	Offering a large assortment of locally grown annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, vegetables and fruit trees in a variety of sizes from 4" pots to 15 gallon containers. Quality plants at affordable prices.	Open Monday to Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (earlier, by appointment) and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Morningsun Herb Farm	6137 Pleasant Valley Road Vacaville 707.451.9406 https://www.morningsunherbfarm.com/	10% Show current RVGC membership card	Rose Loveall is the owner. Check Website at: https://www.morningsunherbfarm.com/visitus	3/1 to 10/31 open 9am to 5pm; 11/1 – 12/23, and mid-Jan to 3/1. open Thurs. to Sun. 11am to 4pm. (Check website.)
Pow Nursery	12724 Quince Lane Wilton 916.687.7176 http://pownursery.com/	10% Show current RVGC membership card	Wholesale prices; open to public; large selection of landscape trees, shrubs, fruit trees, roses and more. Note: Can labels are recycled and may not reflect what's actually in it. If in doubt, ask. Pow donates to our monthly raffle.	Summer: Mon – Sat 9am to 4pm, closed Sundays; Winter: call, or check the website.
The Secret Garden	8450 West Stockton Boulevard Elk Grove 916.682.6839 http://www.secretgarden-online.com/	10% off all regular priced items Show current RVGC membership card	Offering Sacramento residents an extensive fountain selection, broad range of decorative iron, pottery and garden statuary. Its indoor showrooms offer hundreds of unique gift ideas.	Open 7 days a week from 10am to 6pm. Hours change seasonally however, so check their website.

	Address	Discount		Hours
Silverado Nursery	9297 Jackson Road Sacramento 916.361.7374 http://silveradobldg.com/	5% off all pottery, fountain and pond supplies; 10% off all planting material. Show current RVGC membership card and a license	Carries a large selection of both your favorite and hard-to-find trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and vines; a wide variety of fountains, pottery, benches, tables and statuary; garden accents to complete your outdoor or indoor living spaces; and a lot of great natural stone.	3/21 to 10/29: Mon-Sat. 8am to 6pm. 10/30 – 3/20; Mon – Fri 8am to 5pm, and Saturday 8am to 4pm. Closed Sunday
Pietro Talini's Nursery & Garden Center	5601 Folsom Boulevard Sacramento 916.451.8150 http://talinisnursery.com/	10% off all regular priced items Show current RVGC membership card	East Sacramento nursery with organic gardening supplies, vegetable plants, herbs, roses, indoor plants, aquatic plants and bonsai; plants up to 15 gallon size; landscaping and planting services available.	Open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in winter, and from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in summer.
Village Nurseries	6901 Bradshaw Road Sacramento 916.366.3966 https://www.villagenurseries.com/locations/sacramento-landscape-center/	15% off all planting material. Show current RVGC membership card and a license	Show Village Nurseries discount card. If expired, they will renew. New members show RVGC membership card to receive discount card. Village Nurseries grows and supplies a variety of popular plants, native plants, succulents, specimen trees in containers up to 48", drought tolerant plants, vines and flowering shrubs.	April to Nov. open Mon – Sat 7:30am to 4:30pm.; December to March open 9am to 4pm, closed on Sunday.

2018 Photo Adventure

Fran Hawkins, Chair

Your 2018 Photo adventure begins here!

We challenge you to join the adventure once again. Dust off your old brownie, digital camera, smart phone, or brand new iPhone X. As the saying goes *"The best camera is the one you have with you."*

We tempt you with fame and the opportunity to have your photo published in our 2019 River Valley Garden Club calendar.

What are you waiting for? Check out the categories, find inspiration from nature, and submit your photo to this year's garden club photo contest.

For those of you who have never entered the contest before, we have a category just for you. It's called the *Fresh Adventurer* and has its own 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards.

The 2018 Categories are:

Garden Visions: Whatever inspires you in your garden, your neighbors garden, or a public garden. Be it a single flower, a shrub, a tree, a flower bed – find your vision in a garden.

Landscapes: A landscape that takes your breath away, from a national park to local natural scenery.

For full details, check out the [flyer](#) for the 2018 Photo Adventure on our [website](#).



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. Every elf has this ornament on the tip of their shoes.
2. Everyone is familiar with the mistletoe tradition. What color are mistletoe berries?
3. How does Santa Claus go back up the chimney to continue his journey of delivering gifts?
4. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
5. Name the eight original Reindeer.
6. Red and green are the two colors most associated with Christmas. What two other colors, (according to Christmas holiday trivia), are also extremely popular in this season?
7. Traditionally, kids leave out snacks for Santa Claus. What are these snacks?
8. Traditions of Christmas around the world will tell you that Santa Claus is known by many names. What is the French name for Santa Claus?
9. Two of the reindeers are named after weather phenomenon. Name the reindeer.
10. What two phrases will you almost always find on Christmas gift tags?



Click [here](#) for the answers.



DID YOU KNOW?

Rudolph was almost named Reginald.

A copywriter named Robert L. May invented the oddball reindeer in 1939 as a marketing gimmick for Montgomery Ward's holiday coloring books. (May considered naming the beloved misfit Reginald or Rollo.) And his nose wasn't originally going to be red: A red nose was viewed as a sign of alcoholism and Montgomery Ward didn't want him to seem like a drunkard. Good thing they changed it. "Reginald, the blue-nosed reindeer" doesn't have quite the same ring ... or charm.

Jingle Bells was originally a Thanksgiving song.

James Lord Pierpont, an organist from Savannah, Georgia, first performed a song he wrote, "The One Horse Open Sleigh, at his church's Thanksgiving concert. The song was re-published in 1857 and given the current title. Bonus fact: It's also the first song broadcast from space. On December 16, 1965, the Gemini 6 crew serenaded Mission Control after they reported seeing a "red-suited" astronaut.



THE DELICIOUS SMELL OF RAIN

There's a name for it.

Love the smell of rain? If so, you're in good company. In fact, some scientists believe that people inherited their affection for the scent of rain from ancestors who relied on rainy weather for their survival.

PETRICHOR is the earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil. The word is constructed from the Greek word *petra*, meaning "stone", and *ichōr*, the fluid that flows in the veins of the gods in Greek mythology. There is a technical explanation about all this, but maybe it is as simple as when we tap into Petrichor, the smell of rain, we're tapping into our ancestors.



Love the romantic bunch of greenery pictured here? Did you know that it is actually a vicious parasite that survives by sucking the nutrients from trees? Toss in the fact that some species are poisonous, and mistletoe starts to become a tad less romantic.



Mistletoe

INTERESTING FACTS

All mistletoes grow as parasites on the branches of trees and shrubs. The genus name of North America's oak mistletoe is *Phoradendron*, Greek for "tree thief." One would be hard pressed to find an oak tree in Murietta that isn't festooned with the tree-killing parasite.

There are 1,300 mistletoe species worldwide. The continental United States and Canada are home to more than 30 species, and Hawaii harbors another six. And curiously, despite its life-sucking properties, more than 20 mistletoe species have managed to land themselves on the global endangered list.